

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BAGHDAD 002908

SIPDIS

STATE FOR INR/R/MR, NEA/PPD, NEA/PPA, NEA/AGS, INR/IZ,  
INR/P  
E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: [OPRC](#) [KMDR](#) [KPAO](#) [IZ](#)  
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: IRAQ, TERRORISM, LONDON BOMBINGS;  
BAGHDAD

1. SUMMARY: The major themes in the daily newspapers on July. 11 were calls for the Arab Ministers of Interior to hold a security conference, the constitutional committee's preparations for drafting the constitution, and the latest developments of the security situation. END SUMMARY.

-----  
TABLE OF CONTENTS  
-----

- 1A. "Is there any excuse now?" (Al-Bayyan, 7/11)
- 1B. "What are the causes and solutions of the attacks in Iraq and Britain?" (Al-Ittihad, 7/11)

-----  
SELECTED COMMENTARIES  
-----

- 1A. "Is there any excuse now?" (Al-Bayyan, 7/11)

Al-Bayyan (affiliated with Islamic Ad-Dawa party led by Ibrahim Al-Jafari) published a third-page column by Salim Rasool about terrorism in Iraq:

"With the assassination of the Egyptian ambassador to Iraq, the terrorists cannot justify their operations as being part of the "honest resistance" and they can no longer conceal the disgrace of terrorism. Egypt and other Arab countries have now realized that the armed groups in Iraq regard each of these countries as apostates that must be punished according to Islamic law. It is for this reason that the poor Egyptian ambassador was killed. We must ask, however, why did this tragedy occur?

I think that the source of this tragedy originates from the insistence of some groups to forge facts and provoke terror and violence through the media outlets. In addition, Arab governments allowed such coverage to be aired by referring to the presence of freedom of expression. However, these untruthful media outlets began endangering these government's visions, their political futures, and the relationships between one another. Indeed, these media outlets have dealt with the Egyptian ambassador's assassination in a very strange and unrealistic manner. Not only did these outlets justify the killing of the ambassador, they went further by claiming that the Egyptian government is responsible for his killing. These media networks stated that Iraq is under heroic resistance and that Egypt should have never sent an ambassador to Baghdad because the Iraqi government is illegitimate.

The entire world now realizes that what is occurring in Iraq cannot be viewed as resistance. These operations are simply aimed at provoking sectarian sedition in Iraq. However, the Arab street does not want to admit this fact because it is being controlled by media outlets that specialize in hypocrisy and the art of distorting the truth. It is time for the Arab governments to eradicate the terrorist groups and to stop these media outlets from deceiving public opinion. We have stated previously that Al-Zarqawi and his followers do not care about the wellbeing of Arabs. Unfortunately, nobody listened to us. Instead, they chose to believe those who were lying to them. The Arabs went on applauding the beheading of Iraqis under the pretext that all Iraqis were traitors and spies. Therefore, these beheadings were legally justified. We have always felt hurt and betrayed by such Arab attitudes. We would like to know whether the Arabs have an excuse today now that terrorism has begun to target them?"

- 1B. "What are the causes and solutions of the attacks in Iraq and Britain?" (Al-Ittihad, 7/11)

Al-Ittihad (affiliated with the PUK, led by Jalal Talabani) published a third-page editorial by Abdul Hadi Mahdi about the terrorist attacks in Iraq and Britain:

"The entire world has condemned the recent bombings in London. This blanket condemnation derives from a humanitarian perspective because the majority of victims were innocent civilians. At the same time, most countries implemented intensive security precautions around their embassies and other facilities. These precautions are aimed

at preventing further attacks from occurring and protecting innocent lives. However, it is interesting to note that these precautions refer to two possibilities. The first is that the security forces lack sufficient intelligence information to stop such operations from occurring. The second possibility is that authorities have received intelligence that indicates there will be similar operations executed in other countries. We do not oppose any country's decision to implement these security precautions because these measures are aimed at protecting lives. The perpetrators of such attacks do not have a specific identity and are not restricted to any particular geographic location. Being diligent is important because if these attacks can be carried out in a country like Britain with a strong intelligence apparatus, then they can certainly be duplicated in other countries with less effective intelligence capabilities. The attacks in London were no easy feat because they coincided with the security precautions implemented for the G-8 summit. Needless to say, the daily attacks in Iraq are more violent than the London bombings and the number of daily victims is much higher.

We must ask why did Iraq's neighboring countries not implement security precautions around their own facilities in Iraq? This answer has several interpretations that require multiple assumptions. Do these countries believe that the terrorist operations occurring in Iraq will never be exported into their lands? Do they prefer to leave the Iraqis alone to face their own destiny? We do not want to search for the answers to these questions. Countries around the world have allocated billions of dollars to counter terrorist operations. However, this amount has proven incapable of putting an end to such operations. Perhaps the billions of dollars that have been spent have only resulted in transferring the execution of these operations from one country to another. Therefore, we must implement an accurate study to discuss the motives behind this dissemination of death culture. We must enact solutions to save the world from this evil. We have grown tired of debates on the pan-Arab satellite channels and newspapers where accusations are exchanged without offering any real or accurate facts."

SATTERFIELD